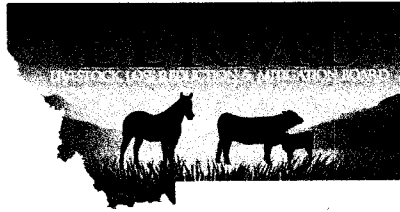


STATE OF MONTANA
BRIAN SCHWEITZER, GOVERNOR

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 2/1/11
HB 287

LIVESTOCK LOSS REDUCTION & MITIGATION
PO BOX 202005
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-2001



BOARD OFFICE (406) 444-5609
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February 1, 2011

RE: HB 287

Informational Testimony: George Edwards, Livestock Loss Mitigation Coordinator

Chairman and Members of the committee, the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Board voted to proceed with an offer made by Montana Woolgrowers Association to seek legislation to fund the board. The following is the board's October 18th motion:

Motion: Brad Radtke made a motion to sponsor a bill via Montana Woolgrowers to enable LLRMB to receive wolf hides taken via depredation kills be sold for board fundraising. Whitney Wankel seconded the motion. **Discussion:** Mike Leahy was opposed to the motion as it may be more trouble than it is worth. It is something his organization would not support. Larry Trexler said those dollars would benefit the program and be passed back to the agricultural community. Jim Cross asked what happens to the hides now. Carolyn Sime said some carcasses are not retrieved and availability will be low. Jim Cross asked Ms. Sime if there is a market for wolf hides. Ms. Sime said yes at fur shows. Kraig Glazier said Wildlife Services used to collect all carcasses that are turned over to FWP for samples. He said there is a narrow window when the hides are of good quality however, if the board was to get legislative authority, they could retrieve a few hides. Brad Radtke asked Mr. Glazier his estimate on how many hides the board could get. Mr. Glazier said 20 to 50 more or less. It could increase Wildlife Services workload but he did not want that to be a determining factor. Whitney Wankel wants a couple of pelts for auctions to help the board. **Vote:** Elaine Allestad, Jim Cross, Larry Trexler, Brad Radtke, Whitney Wankel and John Herman in favor, Mike Leahy opposed. Motion carried.

A point of information for the committee is that current state law 87-3-506 MCA "Wasting of fur-bearing animals" part 1(C) states "waste the pelt of any fur-bearing animal". Further on in the law is part 3(A) which states "Federal, state, and county predator control programs are exempt from this section". A fine related to wolves is contained in 87-1-111 MCA. Individuals in the first section of this law shall reimburse the state for each bird, mammal or fish according to the following schedule, 87-1-111 (1)(b) elk caribou, bald eagle, black bear, wolf and moose, \$1,000.

LLRMB is looking at all fundraising options including HB 287 to fund the board and program.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 406-444-5609 or by email at gedwards@mt.gov.